Biotechnology and Genomics, LLM

Students gain a detailed understanding of the legal issues surrounding genetic applications such as: cloning, forensic evidence, gene testing, gene therapy, genetically modified organisms, and stem cells and behavioral genetics. Students also examine the laws that enable and constrain the development, control and application of biotechnology and genomics.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: LL.M. Biotechnology and Genomics

The LLM in biotechnology and genomics is offered through the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law's Center for Law, Science and Innovation, the nation's oldest, largest and most comprehensive research center focusing on the intersection of law and science. Through classroom instruction and guided independent study, Master of Laws candidates will examine the legal issues surrounding genetic applications such as:

- cloning
- forensic evidence
- gene testing
- gene therapy
- genetically modified organisms
- stem cells and behavioral genetics

The issues relate to:

- business planning
- confidentiality
- evidentiary standards
- intellectual property
- international trade
- liability
- licensing
- privacy
- regulation
Master of Laws in biotechnology and genomics students explore and examine the law that enables and constrains the development, control and application of biotechnology and genomics. Relevant legal fields include:

- agricultural law and policy
- health law, particularly public health law
- intellectual property

Forensic science and ethical constraints upon the various contemplated uses are also important elements of the program. Because the legal, ethical and policy aspects of genomics and biotechnology are of global significance, this program is also beneficial for non-U.S. lawyers. Candidates for a Master of Laws degree must have received their JD or comparable terminal law degree from another country.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus

Degree Requirements

The program is designed to be completed in nine months on a full-time basis but also may be pursued on a part-time basis. A degree candidate must complete 24 credit hours of coursework to obtain the Master of Laws degree in biotechnology and genomics. A candidate may elect to write a graduate thesis for either three or six credit hours or can elect not to write a thesis and fulfill the equivalent credits with other coursework. Two required courses are: genetics and the law; and biotechnology: science, law and policy.

The remaining credit hours generally will be obtained from the list of elective courses. With faculty advisor approval, a candidate may satisfy up to six credit hours with courses offered by other ASU departments or by law courses that are not included on the approved elective list.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.
Admission to the program is competitive. In order to be admitted, an applicant must have completed a Juris Doctor degree program or a law degree program at a foreign institution that would qualify the applicant to practice law or pursue license to practice in that country and have submitted a complete application to the program. Selection will be based on:

- academic background and potential
- career experience and ambitions
- diversity of experience and background
- space and resource limitations in the law school
- strength of experience related to the program sought and other factors

For an application to be considered complete, it must include the following:

1. completed Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) electronic application form (available at https://law.asu.edu/admissions/apply/llm)
3. required application fee
4. resume that does not exceed three typed pages
5. personal statement that does not exceed 1,250 words (double-spaced typed pages)
6. transcripts from all institutions attended, including the transcript showing that the bachelor's degree and law degree were conferred
7. two letters of recommendation
8. writing sample

Additional Application Information
Transcripts and letters of recommendation or evaluations must be submitted through the Law School Admissions Council's Credential Assembly Service and will be provided to the ASU College of Law by LSAC.

Applicants with degrees from foreign institutions must meet ASU Graduate College and College of Law English proficiency requirements.

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines